THE

CONFESSION AND EXECUTION

Of the Three Priſoners ſuffering at

TYBURN

On *Wedneſday* the 17th of *October*, 1677.

At which time ſuffered

John S. William Fletcher, and *Rob. Perkins.*

TOGETHER

With their Behaviour, and ſeveral remarkable Diſcourſes had with one of the Highway-men in *Newgate* after his Condemnation.

Publiſhed for a Warning-piece to all others to avoid the lewd Courſes which brought theſe poor men to this Ignominious End.

With Allowance.

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The Confeſsion and Execution of the Priſoners dying at *Tyburn.*

AT the Seſſions of *Oyer* and *Terminer* for *London*, and Gaole-delivery of *Newgate* begun at Juſtice-Hall in the *Old Bayly*, *Octob.* 10. and ending on the 12 of the ſame Month, there were in all (as by a Printed Narrative you may already have heard) Five perſons, who being Convicted on fair Tryals (*per Patriam*) of ſeveral capital Crimes, received Sentence of Death: But Two of them, whoſe Crime was ſtealing of two horſes, appearing to be objects of mercy, as having never been concern'd in any ſuch offences before, and ſeeming now extremely penitent for the ſame, obtained a Gracious Reprieve. The other Three were this preſent Wedneſday, *Octob.* 17. carryed

to the place of execution, and by a ſhameful death ſurrendered their unhappie lives as Victims duely forfeited to the Juſtice of the Law.

Theſe were all three old notorious offenders; two of them (taken in *Gardiners-lane, Weſtminſter*) had long followed the Padd, as they call it, that is, Robbed upon the Highway: The other had made it his trade to break open houſes, and pilfer away peoples Goods, being burnt in the hand but two Seſſions ago: So that if ſuch Malefactors ſhould have longer been endured, honeſt Subjects would not be able either to ſleep ſecurely in their Dwellings, or travel abroad with ſafety on their lawful occaſions; but both within doors and withour, been liable to the ſpoils and outrages of theſe barbarous Savages.

To aſſiſt theſe poor wretches for the good of their Souls after the time of their Condemnation, the Sheriffs not onely manifeſted their pious Charity in ſending them able Divines to inſtruct them, and eſpecially Mr. Ordinary, who very laboriouſly diſcharges his

his weighty office on ſuch occaſions, but likewiſe ſeveral godly Miniſters of their own accord, in Chriſtian-compaſſion to their periſhing condition, were pleaſed to viſit them. Who laid before them the miſerable ſtate they were in; That now their days we numbered, nay their very hours and minutes which they had to live in this world; and yet theſe few minutes were all the time and opportunity they had to provide for eternity. That they were doom'd by Juſtice to a certain death; and though 'twas vain for them to flatter themſelves with hopes of longer life in this world, yet there was means left, by a ſpeedy, thorow, ſincere and hearty repentance of their ſins, and fleeing to Chriſt for mercy and forgiveneſs, to ſecure themſelves, by vertue of his merits and righteouſneſs, of a moſt happy and everlaſting life in the world to come. That to ſuch vile and ſinful wretches as they had been, it was unſpeakable mercy that they had yet a little ſpace left, wherein to make peace with their God: for they might have gone on ſtill in riot and wickedneſs, and been ſuddenly ſnatcht away

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in the very acts of their impiety &c. These and many other pressing exhortations, together with severe threatnings to affright them and sweet promises to allure them, taken from the Word of God, were made use of, to bring them to a due sense of their sins, and to cry mightily to God for salvation. *But the deaf adder refuses the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely* All this good seed could take no root, or produce very little visible fruit on the stony ground of two of these Prisoners obdurate hearts; they not seeming (to outward appearance at least) to take that due and sensible notice of this most important counsel, as might be expected from persons in their condition. *But the Spirit bloweth where it listeth.* The third seemed much affected with this pious advice, and was very earnest and frequent in bewailing his sins, and condemning himself bitterly for having so wickedly mis-spent his precious time heretoforr. He acknowledged to some, that he had several years been a Thief, but not till of late upon the High-way: that at first his Conscience would after every fact severely

verely check him; but ſince cuſtom of ſinning taking away the ſenſe, he had run on from one degree of wickedneſs to a greater without controul. He was very frequent in Prayer, wherein he has been heard to expreſs himſelf to this effect.

Moſt dreadful and glorious God, though thou hateſt all the workers of iniquity, yet through the Mediation of thy bleſſed Son, with pity behold me a miſerable ſinner. Had I lived according to thy Commandments, or ſubmitted to the Goſpel of thy Son, I might approach thee with the confidence of a childe: but I have been a Rebel againſt thee from my youth up, forgetting the God that made me, and the Saviour that redeemed me, quenching and grieving the holy Spirit, and ſlighting the endleſs Glory which thou haſt prepared for me. Oh the precious time which I have loſt, which all the world cannot call back; the wonderful love which I unthankfully rejected! How have I lived in continual acts of all kinde of Profaneneſs, all kind of Debauchery, Whoring, Swearing, Drunkenneſs, and eſpecially Theft, which now has brought me to this woful, forlorn, condemned caſe wherein I am a ſhame to my friends, and a burden to my ſelf; and thou, O God, art my Terrour, who ſhouldſt be my onely Hope and Comfort. Lord, thou knoweſt my ſecret ſins, which yet are unknown to men, and all their Aggravations. Mine iniquities, Lord, have found me out; my fears and ſorrows overwhelm me: a ſhameful death

death expects me in this world, and endless torments are ready to receive me in the other. But, Lord! thy Goodness is equal to thy Greatness, thy Mercy over all thy works. Good God, be merciful therefore unto me, the vilest of sinners: save me for thy abundant mercy, for the merit of thy Son, and for the promise of forgiveness which thou hast made through him; for in these alone is all my trust. Thou who didst patiently endure me when I despised thee, Oh do not refuse me now I seek unto thee, and in the dust implore thy mercy. Lord, I ask not for longer life in this world, but for life eternal; not for liberty to sin again, but for deliverance from this sinning nature, and that body of death which overwhelms me. To this purpose Lord give me thy grace to improve these few minutes, and prepare me for death and Judgement; that when I leave this world with shame, I may be received into glory, and yeeld my departing soul with joy into the faithful hands of my Redeemer. Amen.

He behaved himself very penitently in the Cart, Prayed a considerable time by himself privately at the place of Execution; desired all people to take warning by him to avoid Idleness and Ill Company, which brought him to this Ignominious End. The other joyned in the publick Prayers, but said very little that could be heard. But all of them together suffered very patiently, and with submissive acknowledgements of the Justice of the Sentence.

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